



SC-SIC Board of Trustees

Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence

The annual Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence was created in 2002 to recognize the significant contributions made to public education by the nearly 15,000 School Improvement Council (SIC) members who volunteer in every public school in the state. The Riley Award is named in honor of former South Carolina Governor and US Education Secretary Richard Riley and his late wife, Tunky, and recognizes the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education.

2013 – Richland Northeast High SIC, Columbia (Richland School District Two)

This SIC partnered with local officials, school board members and district administrators to maintain a well-balanced student population during a school rezoning process. It also worked extensively to promote the school's IB program throughout the community and on continuing efforts to revitalize and enhance the physical appearance and facilities at the school. The SIC also worked with a marketing firm to re-brand the school and improve public perception, and undertook a variety of strategies to increase effective internal and external communications, resulting in positive feedback.

2012 – Baron DeKalb Elementary SIC, Camden (Kershaw County School District)

This SIC identified and obtained funding for construction of a more secure main entrance to the school for student and staff safety, and spearheaded grant-writing efforts for the creation of an outdoor classroom to enhance teaching and learning. It also partnered with the United Way of Kershaw County's "Hand in Hand Together" mentoring program to recruit volunteers to assist selected 5th grade students with academic and behavior challenges, resulting in gains in math and reading MAP scores and a 40% reduction in disciplinary referrals.

2011 – Burgess Elementary SIC, Myrtle Beach (Horry County Schools)

This SIC worked to develop a healthy food choices program for its school's students, supplementing the effort with information and educational materials, and rewarding students for adopting healthier eating habits and increased physical activity. The SIC also took a leadership role in identifying funding sources and coordinating grants for a master garden plan to enhance school grounds and serve as outdoor classrooms.

2010 – Stone Academy of Communication Arts SIC – Greenville (Greenville County Schools)

The SIC of this arts magnet focused on the needs of vulnerable students to bridge the gap between home and school. Partnering with The Frazee Dream Center, a free after-school and summer program, this SIC helped connect resources with an increasing number of families and at-risk students. This SIC has worked with parents and city officials to address traffic and safety concerns at the school, and successfully advocated to their school board for the purchase of additional land for a new school play space.

2009 – Morningside Middle SIC – North Charleston (Charleston County School District)

The SIC of this Title I urban school worked to build a strong foundation from which much-needed actions were launched to foster improved student achievement. Some SIC sponsored activities include: a community PACT carnival; a student reading competition; student leadership programs; a student/teacher relationship building program called Bridges; and a variety of programs to support the faculty. This SIC energized its roles and responsibilities and mobilized the entire school community to focus on school improvement.

2008 – Bookman Road Elementary SIC – Elgin (Richland School District Two)

This SIC coordinated local business support (including a \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox Grant) for construction of the Lighthouse Lookout Nature Trail, to be used for student observations of animals, habitats and vegetation. The SIC also spearheaded a \$2,300 Palmetto Pride grant for improvements to the school grounds. SIC members coordinated the school's first Take Pride (in the Outside) Day, which included over 140 volunteers from across the community.

2007 – Chukker Creek Elementary SIC – Aiken (Consolidated School District of Aiken County)

This SIC worked collaboratively to improve reading skills through a special program that boosted achievement results for 95 percent of participating students. The SIC addressed a number of health and safety concerns on the school's campus by promoting sales of nutritious foods in the cafeteria and eliminating potential hazards on the school playground. This SIC also executed a plan to improve community involvement in schools with creation of a district-wide School Improvement Council – the first of its kind in the state.

2006 – Martha Dendy Sixth Grade Center/Bell Street Middle SIC – Clinton (Laurens District 56)

This SIC faced a variety of challenges in their rural community, including a diverse student body and a town with a dwindling job and tax base. The SIC worked hard to increase parent involvement and recognize student achievement, creating "Bell Bucks" to reward positive behaviors and teach students about market forces at the same time. A variety of activities so engaged the parents in this financially challenged community that the SIC was instrumental in the passage of a bond referendum to support school construction and renovation.

2005 – A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary SIC – Columbia (Richland School District 1)

This SIC implemented a series of workshops providing parents with tools to assist their children in the key test subject areas and developed a series of programs to address diversity issues and support non-traditional parents. A Health Fest was held to address overall health issues in the community, and community partnerships provided support, services and awareness of critical health issues. The SIC embraced all members of its community to bring needed resources to the school, securing several major corporate partnerships.

2004 – Manchester Elementary SIC – Pinewood (Sumter County School District 2)

Based on input and suggestions, this SIC championed a Beautification Committee of parents, faculty and staff. Along with community gifts and business partnerships, areas of the school were redecorated, helping the school to achieve a Red Carpet School Award. The SIC also helped to create tutoring and assistance programs contributing to improved academic achievement at the school. The SIC also instituted a Back to School Fair as an incentive to involve more parents in school and to create a fun, non-threatening way to start off the school year.

2003 – Richland Northeast High SIC – Columbia (Richland School District Two)

This SIC used several innovative and effective strategies to safeguard the future of the school and its community including collaboration with a variety of partners to educate the community and develop strategies to address youth violence, gangs, law enforcement, and community services. The co-chairs of the School Improvement Council also formed an intercouncil workgroup with SICs from other high schools in Richland School District Two to reduce rivalries, share feedback and develop community-wide partnerships.

For more information on the Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence, including award criteria and application materials, visit the SC School Improvement Council website, <http://sic.sc.gov>.

South Carolina School Improvement Council

"Civic Engagement in Public Education"

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